

## British teenage girls top drinking list: Study

Source: DBR

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A 2007 report on the 'European School Survey Project on Alcohol and other Drugs' by the UK Department of Health has revealed that 55% of girls aged 15-16 years in the UK consume five or more drinks at least once a month.

The figure makes them the most likely to binge drink in Europe, followed by those in Malta, Portugal, Estonia and Latvia. Figures for boys in the UK stand at 52% behind Malta and Latvia with 62% and 60% respectively.

The paper also revealed that about 9% of men and 4% of women drink at harmful levels with more than 50 units and 35 units a week.

According to the Department of Health submission, drink costs the UK economy more than £21bn every year.

Availability of cheap liquor in supermarkets was mentioned as the prime reason for the outcome which resulted in significant impacts on children's health and crime.

Young age drinking results in possible health risks and harms such as truancy, exclusion and lower educational attainment, involvement in violence, suicidal thoughts and attempts, and ----- transmitted infections.